



## *Andy and Jeanne Powell: WILD MEADOW WOODS FOREVER*

Andy and Jeanne Powell walked an awful lot of parcels before they found the right piece of land to buy, one they knew they'd want to return to again and again. When they discovered the stream, they knew their search was over. "I needed a stream or pond to make our selection complete," says Andy.

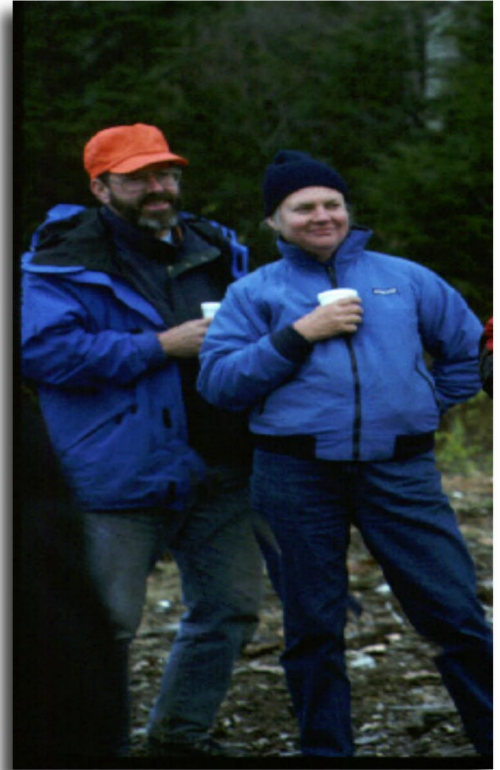
Wild Meadow Brook was just the beginning. As they got to know their 35 acres in Danbury, the Powells learned about tree species and trail construction, stewardship and wildlife management. They spend nearly every weekend on their land, walking and working and enjoying the change of pace from their busy life further south.

"We knew when we purchased our land that we wanted to manage it," says Andy, "and that we needed to work with a forester." Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) cost-sharing funds helped the Powells get off to good start with a management plan drawn up by a consulting forester. "It made a difference not to have to foot the whole bill," says Jeanne. "It encouraged us to jump in and get it done. And it got us involved with professionals who could give us good advice."

That's one of the key things about SIP funding, according to UNH Cooperative Extension forester Tim Fleury. "It encourages landowners to do long-term planning. It helps them think ahead and facilitates stewardship and a land ethic."

SIP money also helped the Powells correct a serious problem along one hillside. A previous logging operation had stripped the slope, leaving behind deep ruts and serious erosion. Today the slope is stabilized and reseeded. "It's been satisfying," says Jeanne, "to be able to manage our land responsibly, to be able to feel that we're doing something good for the land."

Eventually, the Powells purchased another abutting 70-acres. And SIP money helped fund the management plan for this new parcel. "It's been fun," says Andy of their education in land management. "We keep on learning." And now they're sharing their knowledge with others.



*Shortly after being designated a Tree Farm, Andy and Jeanne hosted a woodlot tour. "It's my goal to make as many people as possible aware of what's going on out there in the woods," says Andy. "The different types of terrain, the habitat - and just the peace and quiet."*



*Through education, demonstration, and cost share assistance Tim Fleury, UNH Cooperative Extension forester, helps people like the Powells manage their land. One of the key things about funding, "It encourages landowners to do long-term planning. It helps them think ahead and facilitates stewardship and a land ethic."*

Andy is an active member of the first NH Coverts Cooperators class. He's involved in the local Conservation Commission, trying to raise awareness in his community about the value of open space. "It's my goal to make as many people as possible aware of what's going on out there in the woods," says Andy. "The different types of terrain, the habitat - and just the peace and quiet."

Closer to home, the Powells love sharing their land with their children and grandchildren. The family gathers often at Wild Meadow Woods, walking the trails, watching for birds - and just enjoying the peace and quiet. "The land is going to be here a lot longer than we will," says Andy. "I'd like my grandkids and their grandkids to enjoy it, too. "

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